

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTIONS IN
TWO NORTHERN DISTRICTS

1. SUMMARY: PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTIONS FOR CORFU AND KOZANI DISTRICTS TO BE HELD APRIL 20 WILL BE CONTESTED BY NEW DEMOCRACY AND COMMON FRONT CANDIDATES OF CU/NF AND PASOK, THE MOST TANGIBLE EVIDENCE TO DATE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION PARTIES. MEANWHILE EX-PM KANELLOPOULOS HAS REJECTED AN OFFER FROM CU/NF LEADER GEORGE MAVROS (FIRST FLOATED BY PASOK) THAT HE RUN IN EITHER DISTRICT AS A UNITY CANDIDATE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RARE COLLABORATIVE GESTURE, CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES AND PASOK AGREED TO SINGLE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR BY-ELECTIONS FOR DEPUTY SEATS IN CORFU (VACATED BY RESIGNATION OF ND DEPUTY S. THEOTAKIS) AND KOZANI (TO REPLACE DECEASED DEPUTY D. MANENTIS). IN CORFU PASOK MEMBER SPYROS RALLIS, A PHYSICIAN, WILL RUN AGAINST NEW DEMOCRACY'S CANDIDATE N. COLLAS, WHILE IN KOZANI FORMER CENTER UNION DEPUTY, LAWYER, AND EX-UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, MICHAEL PAPACONSTANTINOU, WHO WAS DEFEATED IN THE NOVEMBER 17, 1974, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELECTIONS, WILL CHALLENGE ND'S D. KYRZOPOULOS, ANOTHER

PHYSICIAN.

3. MEANWHILE CU/NF LEADER GORGE MAVORS DECLARED THAT SHOULD P. KANELLOPOULOS, GREECE'S LAST PREMIER BEFORE THE APRIL 21, 1967 COUP, SEEK TO RUN IN EITHER DISTRICT, ALL PARTIES WOULD WITHDRAW THEIR CANDIDATES AND SUPPORT HIM. (THIS IDEA WAS FIRST FLOATED AND PUSHED BY PASOK IN ITS DAILY NEWSPAPER ATHINAIKI A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.). EX-PM KANELLOPOULOS REPORTEDLY REMARKED SUBSEQUENTLY THAT HE DESIRES TO REMAIN APART FROM THE UPCOMING ELECTORAL CONTEST. (COMMENT: MAVORS' GESTURE TO A FORMER POLITICAL OPPONENT CORRESPONDS WITH A WIDELY-HELD AND NON-PARTISAN CONVICTION THAT KANELLOPOULOS "BELONGS" IN THE PARLIAMENT AND SOME FORMULA SHOULD BE FOUND TO PLACE HIM THERE. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT MAVORS WOULD HAVE FAVORED KANELLOPOULOS RUNNING FROM KOZANI AND ELIMINATING THE CU/NF CANDIDATE, PAPACONSTANTINOU, BUT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED HAD KANELLOPOULOS ACCEPTED, HIS RUNNING FOR THE CORFU SEAT, THUS KNOCKING OUT A POAOK CANDIDATE.)

4. THE BY-ELECTIONS IN THEMSELVES ARE OF LIMITED SIGNIFICANCE EITHER AS A BELLWETHER OF PUBLIC REACTION TO CARAMANLIS' HANDLING OF NATIONAL ISSUES AND HIS POPULARITY OR AS INDICATION OF POSSIBLE SHIFT IN PARTY POLLING STRENGTHS. NEW DEMOCRACY IS EXPECTED BY MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS TO GAKE BOTH SEATS DESPITE FACT THAT PROMINENT OLD POLITICIAN THEOTOKIS MAY USE HIS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN CORFU AGAINST THE ND CANDIDATE. IN KOZANI, PAPACONSTANTINOU ADMITS HHIS ONCE STRONG CONSITUENCY SUPPORT HAS SUFFERED MAJOR EROSION SINCE 6 OF THE 7 DEPUTIES NOW IN PARLIAMENT FROM THE AREA BELONG TO NEW DEMOCRACY. OF GREATER INTEREST IS THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO PRINCIPAL OPPOSTIONS PARTIES AND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER COMMON CANDIDATES IN THE BY ELECTIONS WILL, DESPITE DOCTRINAL AND PERSOANLITY CONFLICTS BETWEEN CU/NV AND PASOK, LEAD TO OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATIONS IN THE FUTURE.
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